

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2021

Lt. General Richard Scobee
Chief of Air Force Reserve
155 Richard Ray Boulevard,
Robins AFB, Georgia 31098

Dear Lt. General Scobee,

We write you in strong support of the United States Air Force's mission to upgrade our nation's aerial tanker fleet and urge you to select Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station (NFARS) to host the next KC-46A Pegasus Reserve component. As the representatives serving Western New York, we remain committed to ensuring NFARS maintains a mission suited to its strategic geography, existing infrastructure, and high-quality workforce.

NFARS serves an important role in the defense of our national security and force projection capabilities in the Northern Hemisphere. Located just three miles from the northern border, the base is situated within 500 miles of over half of the American population and nearly two-thirds of our ally Canada's population. At present, the 914th Air Refueling Wing at NFARS supports in-flight refueling missions which are essential to the ability for our nation's fighters, bombers, and surveillance aircraft to conduct sustained operations and deploy in far-off theaters.

Current support to the KC-135 Stratotanker mission means NFARS possesses much of the key tanker infrastructure critical to refueling operations such as fuel storage, fuel dispensing, and a reinforced runway and ramp, allowing the Air Force to leverage the base's existing strengths in a cost-effective manner. The base is close to superior training airspace above Lake Ontario and Fort Drum and stationing the next KC-46A Pegasus wing at NFARS would provide refueling support to our nation's eastern seaboard, European Command (EUCOM) and the Arctic Circle. As the Arctic theater grows increasingly contested by revisionist powers, NFARS' strategic value will only grow.

Selecting NFARS as the next Air Force Reserve location for the KC-46A would allow for the Air Force to take advantage of Western New York's talented workforce and high standard of living. At present, NFARS is the largest employer in Niagara County, supporting nearly 3,300 employees and contributing more than \$200 million to the region's economy annually. The base has adequate operations support in two large modern lodging facilities, a newly constructed fitness and training center, and a large capacity dining facility. The region provides the amenities

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and services essential to supporting our military families such as affordable housing and cost of living, quality childcare and education, and first-rate hospitals and clinics.

Deployment of the KC-46A represents an important opportunity for our nation to enhance the United States' aerial refueling capabilities, expand mission support to critical national security and humanitarian missions, and support the communities which host important Department of Defense infrastructure. As the Air Force continues its search for the next Air Force Reserve home for the KC-46A Pegasus, we ask that you give serious consideration to NFARS for its established track record of success and support to our nation's armed forces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a trailing flourish.

BRIAN HIGGINS
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Jacobs". The signature is stylized with a large initial "C" and a trailing flourish.

CHRIS JACOBS
Member of Congress